

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 29205 051836Z

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AEC-07 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

RSC-01 /044 W

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R 051801Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4869

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS PARIS 29205

FOR OES/SCI, PLEASE PASS AEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH

SUBJECT: MINOR URANIUM SPILL

1. ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, A SMALL AMOUNT OF NATURAL URANIUM IN THE FORM OF MAGNESIUM URANATE POWDER WAS SPILLED, FOLLOWING A MINOR TRAIN COLLISION, ACCORDING TO CEA AND PRESS REPORTS. APPARENTLY, A 1,000 LITER CONTAINER WAS DAMAGED IN THE ACCIDENT NEAR NARBONNE ON THE MALVESI LINE. THE TRAIN THEN WENT INTO NARBONNE TO A SPECIAL PLATFORM FOR NUCLEAR MATERIAL. ON THE WAY, SOME URANIUM POWDER LEAKED ONTO THE TRACKS. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE SECURITY AUTHORITIES ISOLATED THE AFFECTED ZONE, AND SPECIALISTS FROM MARCOULE BEGAN CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS. THE URANIUM POWDER IS TOO HEAVY TO BE TRANSPORTED BY WIND, AND RELEASES LITTLE RADIOACTIVITY.

2. THE NATURAL URANIUM POWDER WAS ON ITS WAY TO THE COMHUREX PLANT AT NARBONNE FOR CONVERSION INTO URANIUM FLORIDE AND THEREUPON SHIPPED TO PIERRELATTE FOR ENRICHMENT.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: URANIUM, RAILROAD ACCIDENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS29205
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740353-0866
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Comment: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
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